

# Coordinating Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs

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## Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal Income Benefits Program of the Social Security Administration which can be available to families with disabled or blind children.

### Who is eligible for SSI?

A family with:

- A child who is blind OR
- A child who has a serious illness or handicapping condition (physical or mental)
- Limited income and resource, and
- A child who is a US citizen or meets certain alien status requirements

### What would my child receive?

In Massachusetts, a child who is found eligible for SSI would get:

- A monthly cash benefit effective from the month following the date of application AND
- MassHealth coverage for payment of medical bills

### Where do I apply?

Applications are made at the local District Office of the Social Security Administration. A parent can either telephone or go directly to the office to begin application. If there is no local number, call the national toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213. The call to the toll-free number counts as a “protected” application, which means if the child is found eligible, benefits will start the month following the date of the call.

### What do I bring with me to apply?

- Proof of the age of every child in the home
- Proof of household income and resources such as wage stubs, income tax returns, bank books, insurance policies
- Name and location of doctors, hospitals and others who can provide information on the child's disability

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**Division for Perinatal, Early Childhood, and Special Health Needs**  
**Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

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### What are my rights?

A parent has the right to:

- Make a written application to SSI
- Be told in writing what the decision is based on
- APPEAL if the application is denied

For copies of the current income limits and benefit rates for children in Massachusetts, or for information and assistance during any part of the process, call 1-800-882-1435.

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